

COUNTRY <u>Germany (Soviet Zone)</u>		SECURITY INFORMATION	50X1-HUM
TOPIC <u>Soviet Troops in Cottbus</u>		REPORT	
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED		50X1-HUM
DATE OF CONTENT			
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED <u>14 March 1952</u>	
REFERENCES			
PAGES <u>3</u>	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)		
REMARKS			

50X1-HUM

1. Between 6 and 10 February 1952, about 200 officers, most of them young, were seen departing by car from the Hermann Loens Kaserne on Hermann Loensstrasse and from the officers' billets on Fontaneplatz, Cottbus (N 52/A 57). The officers, who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia, went to the railroad station and carried map pouches, suitcases and packages. During the period from 1 to 6 February, these officers had been repeatedly observed practicing with T-34 tanks in groups of from 20 to 30. Some officers were also seen operating the tanks for short distances. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- [redacted] the tanks were old and were used only for instruction. After 11 February, the windows of one barracks building and of about 30 apartments in the officers' billets on Fontaneplatz were not lighted. (1) About 120 officers, most of whom were captains or higher, were seen walking from the officers' billets to the barracks installation on 11 February. The same number of officers used to go to the officers' mess on Bismarckstrasse for dinner between 1 and 2 p.m. (2) During the period of observation, two units of about 60 and 30 men respectively were seen daily marching to the wooded area in the direction of Madlow, south of Cottbus. The troops were armed with submachine guns. Two more units of about 60 soldiers each were seen practicing in the billeting area at the same time. A unit of about 60 men marched to the area west of Maehnen on 11 February. The unit held a field exercise which also involved 20 T-34 tanks that were subsequently seen driving to the Sachsendorf Kaserne. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- [redacted] 2 or 3 field exercises, including occasional night exercises, were held in the area west of Maehnen every week. The exercises sometimes involved up to 40 tanks which allegedly belonged to a unit in the Sachsendorf Kaserne. (3) From 7 to 9 a.m. on 13 February, [redacted] 98 officers walking from the officers' billets to the Hermann Loens Kaserne, while 8 officers, who had presumably been relieved left the installation for their billets at 7 a.m. Beginning about 10 a.m., officers carrying map pouches and rolls of maps were seen leaving the installation individually and in small groups, walking to different points in the city. From 10 to 15 soldiers with briefcases entered the installation during the noon hour and left it again after a short while. They were probably messengers. The two radio cars previously observed were still at the same place and were in operation almost all the time. (2) Almost no soldiers were seen in the billeting area during the daylight hours on or after 13 February. The troops in the Hermann Loens Kaserne used to leave the installation at about 5 a.m. and returned to their quarters between 7 and 8 p.m. Three convoys of trucks were seen arriving at the Hermann Loens Kaserne from the direction of Madlow

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2

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on 14 and on 15 February. All of the trucks were occupied to capacity by soldiers. The first convoy consisted of 6 trucks and 1 kitchen truck towing a field kitchen. The second and the third convoy each consisted of 5 trucks and 1 kitchen truck with field kitchen. (3) The building vacated by officers was again occupied by enlisted personnel on 13 February. About 70 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were seen leaving the Hermann Loens Kaserne and marching to the railroad station on 16 February. They boarded a special car of the express train which left toward Goerlitz. (4) Vehicles observed at the Hermann Loens Kaserne

50X1-HUM

large-scale field exercises were held in the area south of Cottbus during the period of observation. Vehicles seen driving in this direction on 13 February included: radio trucks, 6 armored reconnaissance cars; and trucks each carrying 16 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and towing a 122-mm artillery piece. the troops in the Hermann Loens Kaserne were commanded by one Colonel Istyuov (phonetic spelling) (fnu). (3)

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2. On 5 February, 1 officer and 5 EM carrying pack radio sets with rod antennas were seen walking into the Alvensleben Kaserne on Karl Liebknechtstrasse. Truck carrying 11 soldiers and towing a 122-mm artillery piece left the installation the following day. Trucks carrying a total of 60 soldiers with practice targets, left the installation on 12 February. They were followed after a short while by rocket launchers. Materiel seen in the barracks yard on 14 February included 3 canvas-covered rocket launchers, 6 trucks, 2 x 122-mm artillery pieces and 1 ZIS-3 field gun of model 43. The materiel was being cleaned by 40 to 50 soldiers. (50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

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3. The troops in the Funker Kaserne were engaged only in interior duty and occasionally singing was heard. No training with arms was noticed in the billeting area. Groups of soldiers with baggage were repeatedly seen arriving at, or departing from, the barracks installation. Truck was seen there hauling baggage on 13 February. (4) Soldiers practiced aiming with three artillery pieces in the area at Dissenchen on 10 February. Two of the artillery pieces were 122-mm and one was a 76.2-mm model ZIS-3. Trucks each towing a 122-mm artillery piece, and truck towing a light field gun were seen coming from the direction of Dissenchen. Sedan with 1 major and 1 senior lieutenant was seen at the crossing over the Cottbus-Dissenchen railroad line in the afternoon of the same day. (6) The houses at 62, 62a and 63 Cottbuserstrasse, Dissenchen, were connected with the Alvensleben Kaserne by a dual field wire line. The former repair shop of the German postal administration on Bahnhofstrasse, Cottbus, was guarded by soldiers with crimson epaulets. Eight trucks were garaged there.

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Comments.

- (1) The first portion of the report indicates that a course for junior officers was conducted at the Hq 9th Mecz Div in the Hermann Loens Kaserne in early February 1952 and ended on 11 February. The course is believed to have lasted not longer than two weeks.
- (2) The officers are believed to belong to the Hq 9th Mecz Div where a headquarters exercise is believed to have been

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held on 13 February 1952.

- (3) The T-34 tanks from the Sachsendorf Kaserne probably belong to the 70th Meez Regt which is carried there. A total of 20 tanks is more possible than a total of 40. The intensive training activity in the neighborhood of the military post, to judge from the strength of the units reported departing from, and returning to, the post, seems to have been held at company level or at the most battalion level in the middle of February.
- (4) The troops entrained at the railroad station probably went to Weisswasser, where, [redacted] major components of 50X1-HUM the mechanized regiments from Cottbus started arriving for firing practice on 14 February 1952. [redacted] This also applies to the 50X1-HUM troops in the Funker Kaserne.
- (5) The 122-mm. artillery pieces, rocket launchers, and motor vehicles confirm the 602d How Arty Regt and the 44th Gds RL Bn, which are carried in the Alvensleben Kaserne.
- (6) The vehicles observed in the Dissonchen area also belong to the 602d How Arty Regt.

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